NCBI's Entrez System

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Cancer Imaging Informatics Meeting
Bethesda, MD

Paris, 1830

Georges
Cuvier
(1769-1832)

Étienne
Geoffroy St. Hilaire
(1772-1844)

1830: “Form vs. Function” Debate

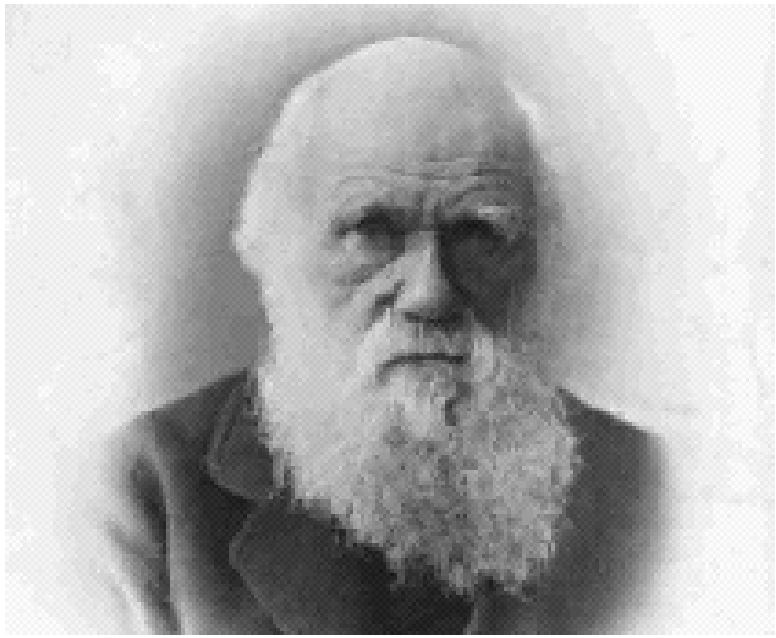
Cuvier

- “form follows function”
- anatomic similarities among vertebrates were due to similar function
- “If there are resemblances between the organs…, it is only insofar as there are resemblances between their functions.”

Geoffroy

- “function follows form”
- vertebrates were modifications of a single archetype
- “There is, philosophically speaking, only a single animal.”

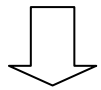
1859: Darwin on Geoffroy



"Geoffroy St. Hilaire has insisted strongly on the high importance of relative connexion in homologous organs; the parts may change to almost any extent in form and size, and yet they always remain connected together in the same order."

“Pre-hypothesis” Biological Information Collection

Cuvier & Geoffroy
both got here,
but through different reasoning



Collect → Characterize → Relate

where discovery takes place:
patterns are seen
and hypotheses form

A modern example:

Sequencing:
sequence gene

Annotation:
annotate features such as coding and non-coding regions

Cross-comparison:
compare sequence to every other sequence

Today vs. 1830

Biotechnological developments have increased size, scope and speed of "pre-hypothesis" biological information collection.

Collection: overwhelming amount and variety of records

GenBank contains >19 million sequence records and >20 billion bases and doubled in size in the last 16 months

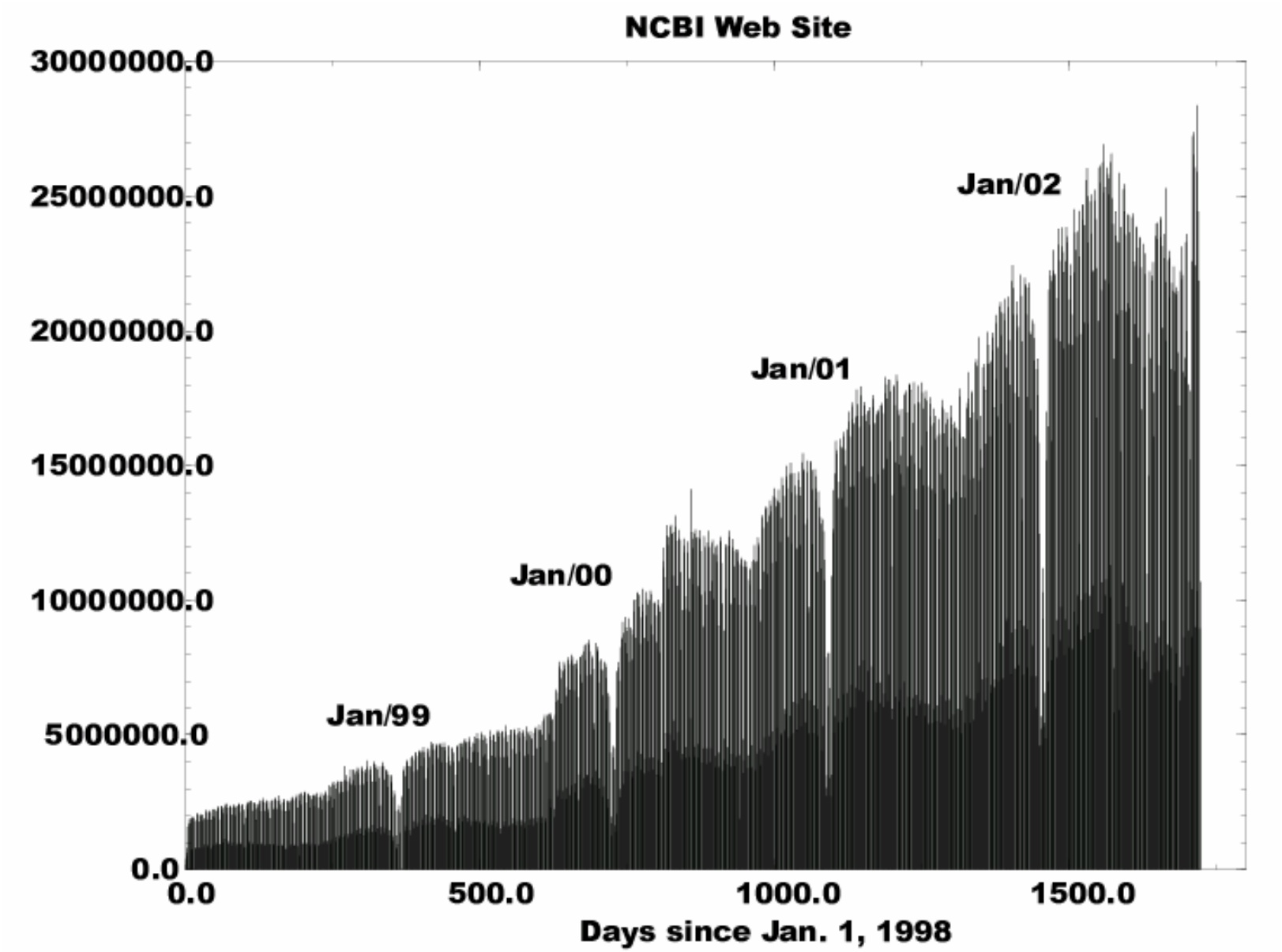
Characterization: increased scope and detail of fields in records

Relation: increased possibility of intra- and inter-database record to record links

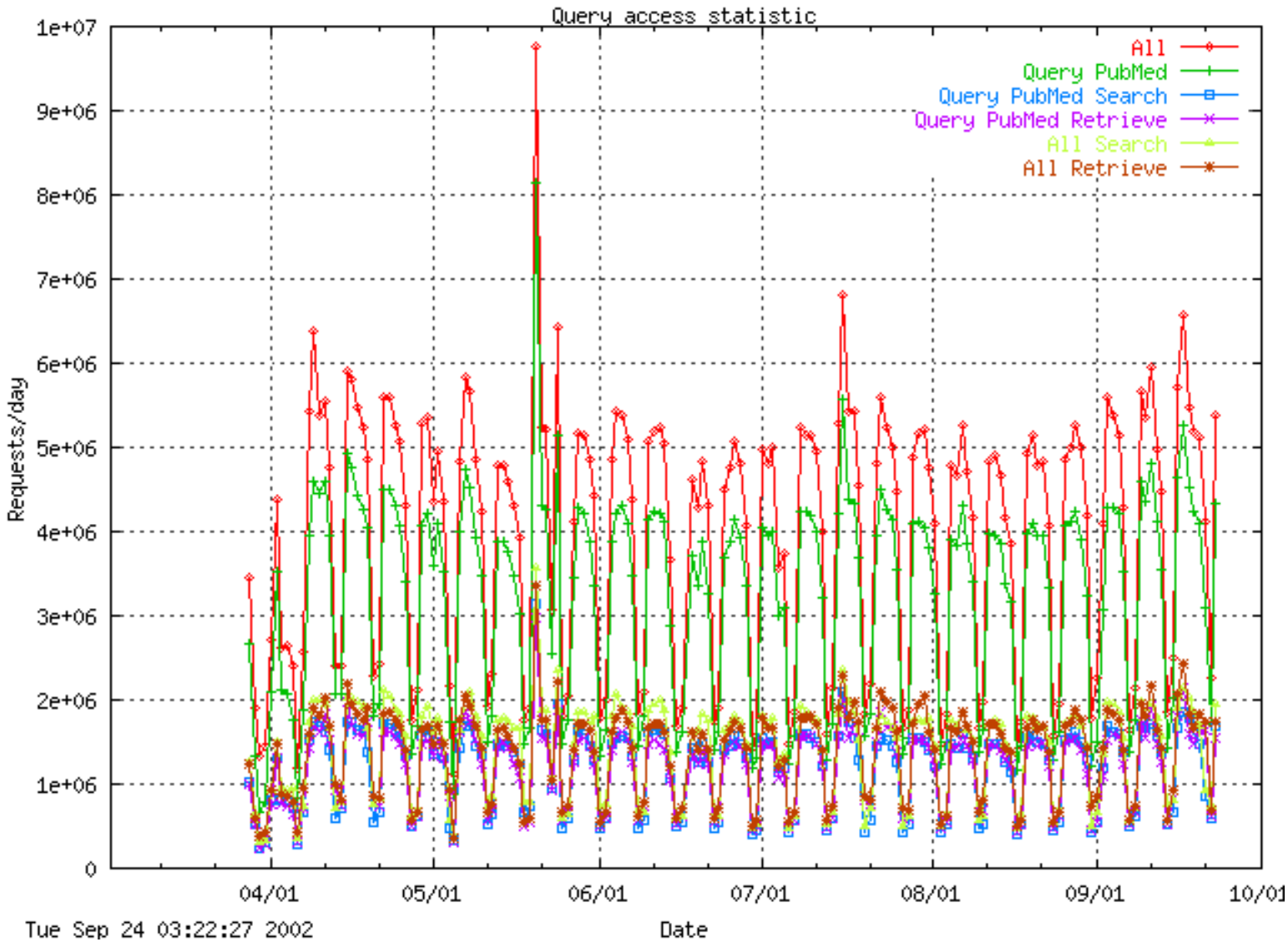
National Center for Biotechnology Information

- Created by Public Law 100-607 in 1988 as part of National Library of Medicine at NIH to:
  - Create automated systems for knowledge about molecular biology, biochemistry, and genetics.
  - Perform research into advanced methods of analyzing and interpreting molecular biology data.
  - Enable biotechnology researchers and medical care personnel to use the systems and methods developed.
- Builders and providers of GenBank, Entrez, Blast, PubMed. Online systems host more than 2 million users per month.
- Center for basic research and training in computational biology.

NCBI Web Hits Per Day



Entrez Hits Per Day



What is Entrez?

Entrez is a scalable and flexible database and interface system constructed and maintained at NCBI.

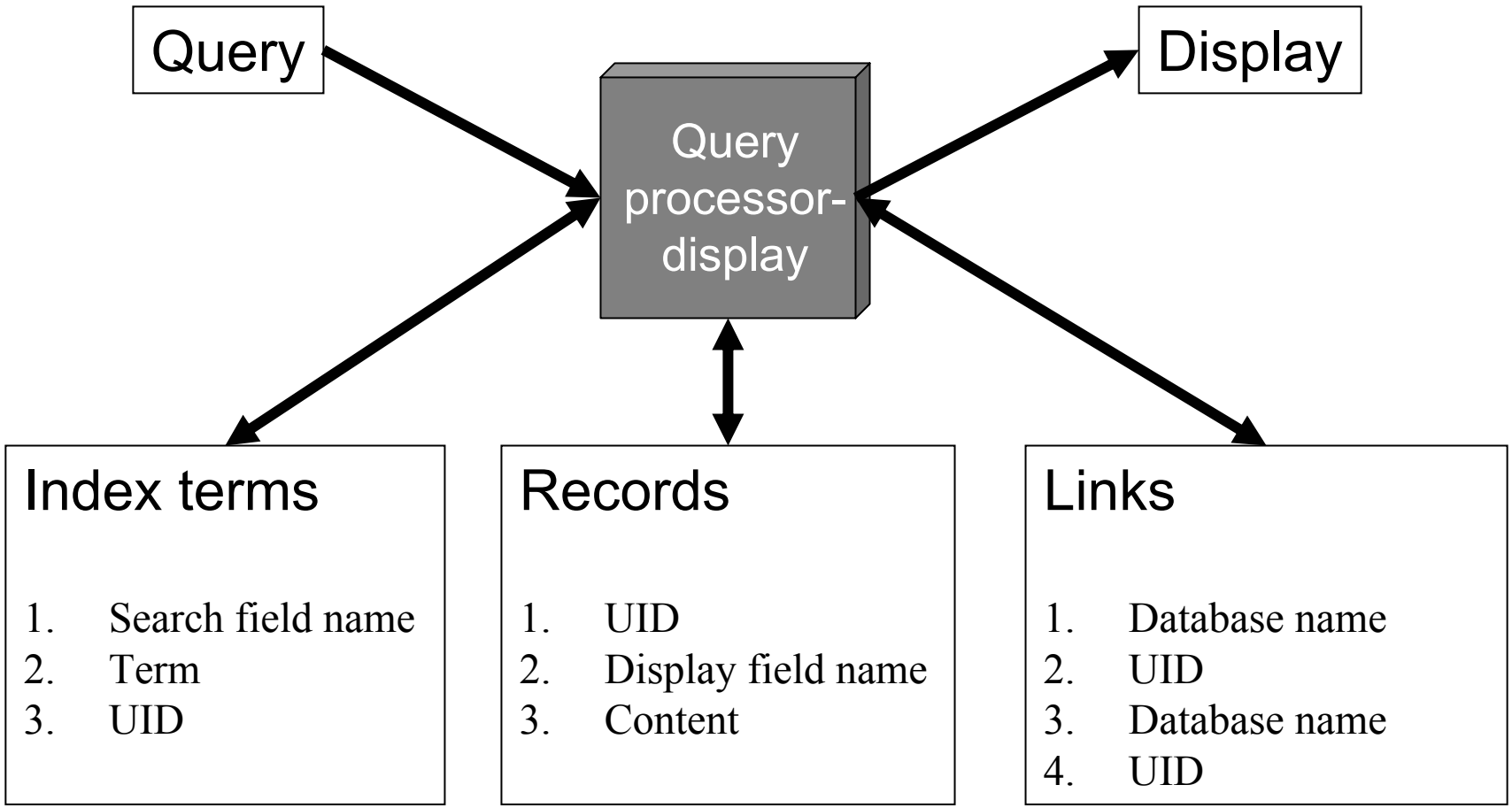
Each Entrez database contains records with pre-specified fields, contains indices on each field, and comes with an interface allowing field-specific, boolean queries.

PubMed is an Entrez database. OMIM is an Entrez database. GenBank nucleotide sequence records are contained in Entrez Nucleotide.

Links can be specified between records within the same Entrez database (intra-database links), or between records in different Entrez databases (inter-database links).

Links can be obvious (eg, identifier matching) or non-obvious (eg, sequence similarity). Non-obvious links generally require examination of the full record and some computation.

Architecture



Entrez stats

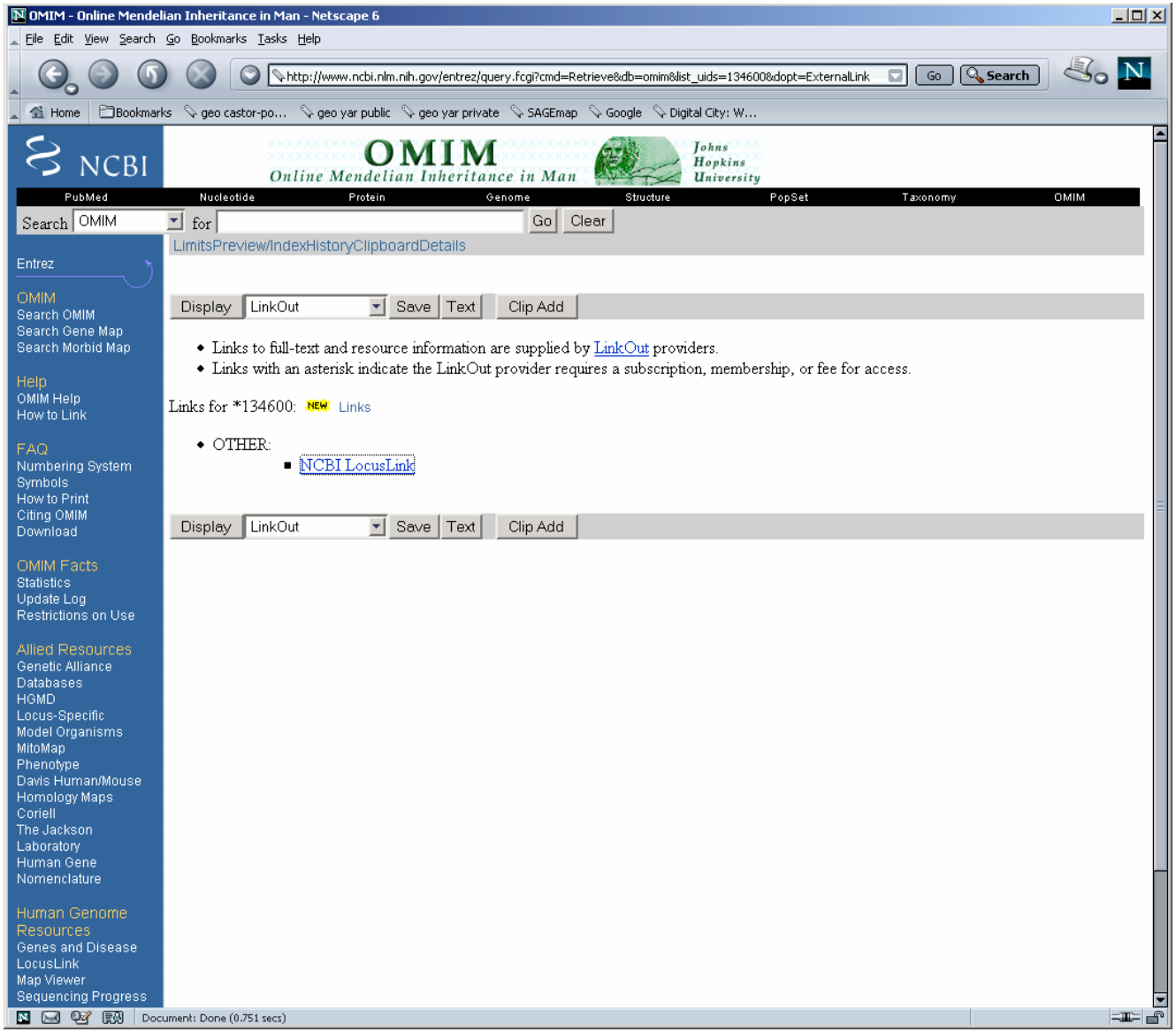
15 Entrez databases

>38 million records

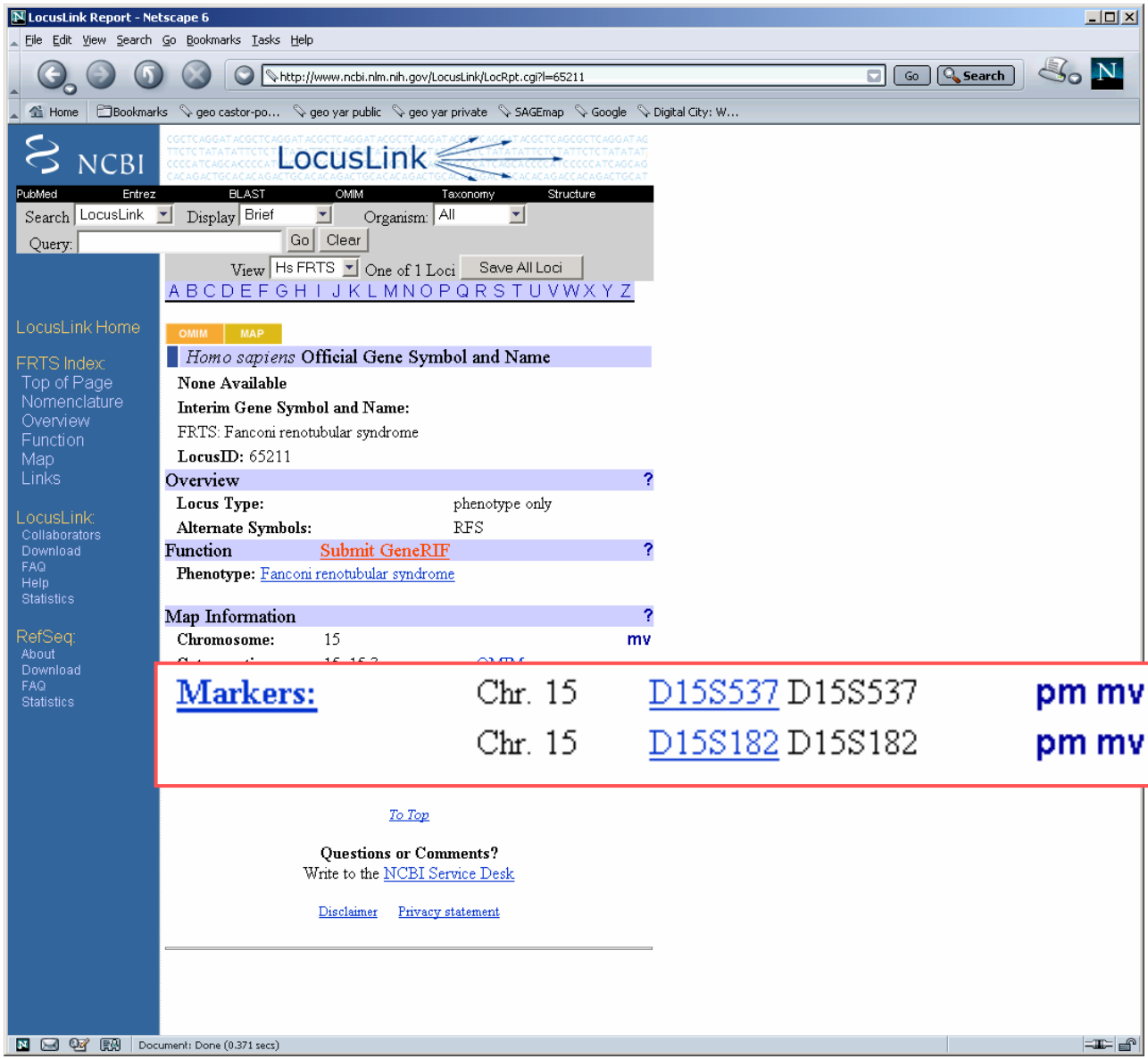
>140 million indexed terms

>6.7 billion intra- and inter-database links

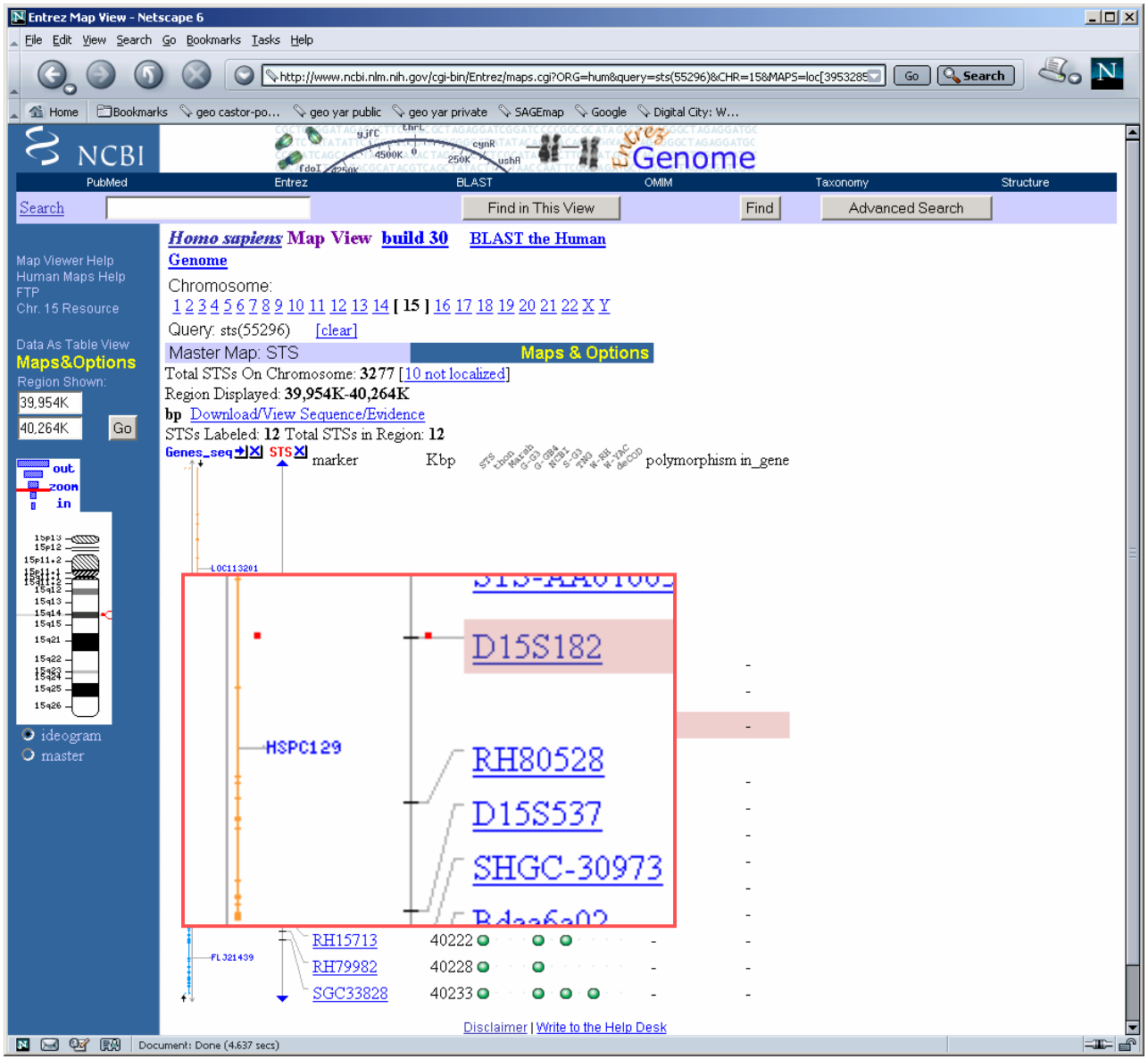
Using Entrez for Discovery - 1



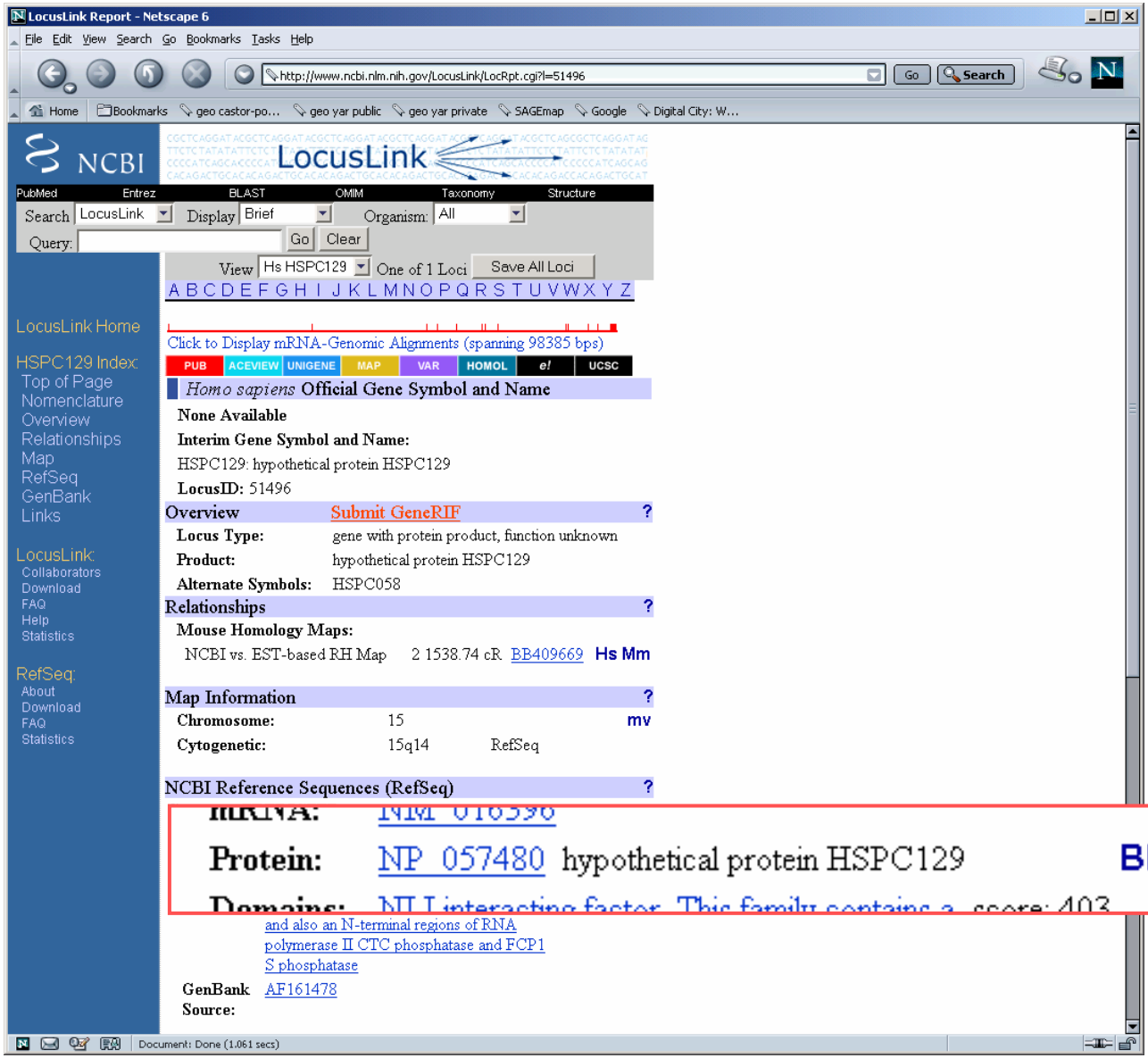
Using Entrez for Discovery - 2



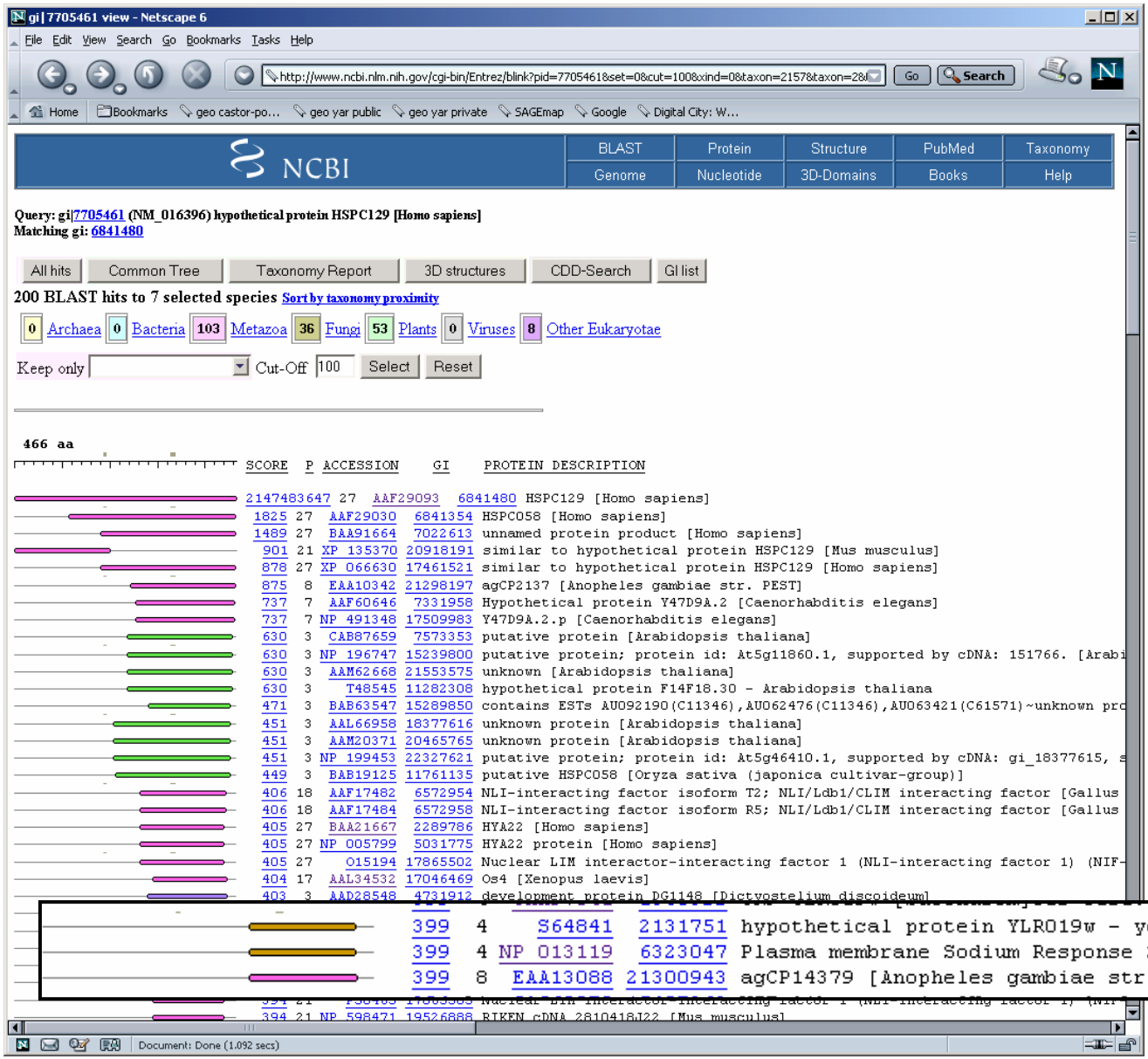
Using Entrez for Discovery - 3



Using Entrez for Discovery - 4

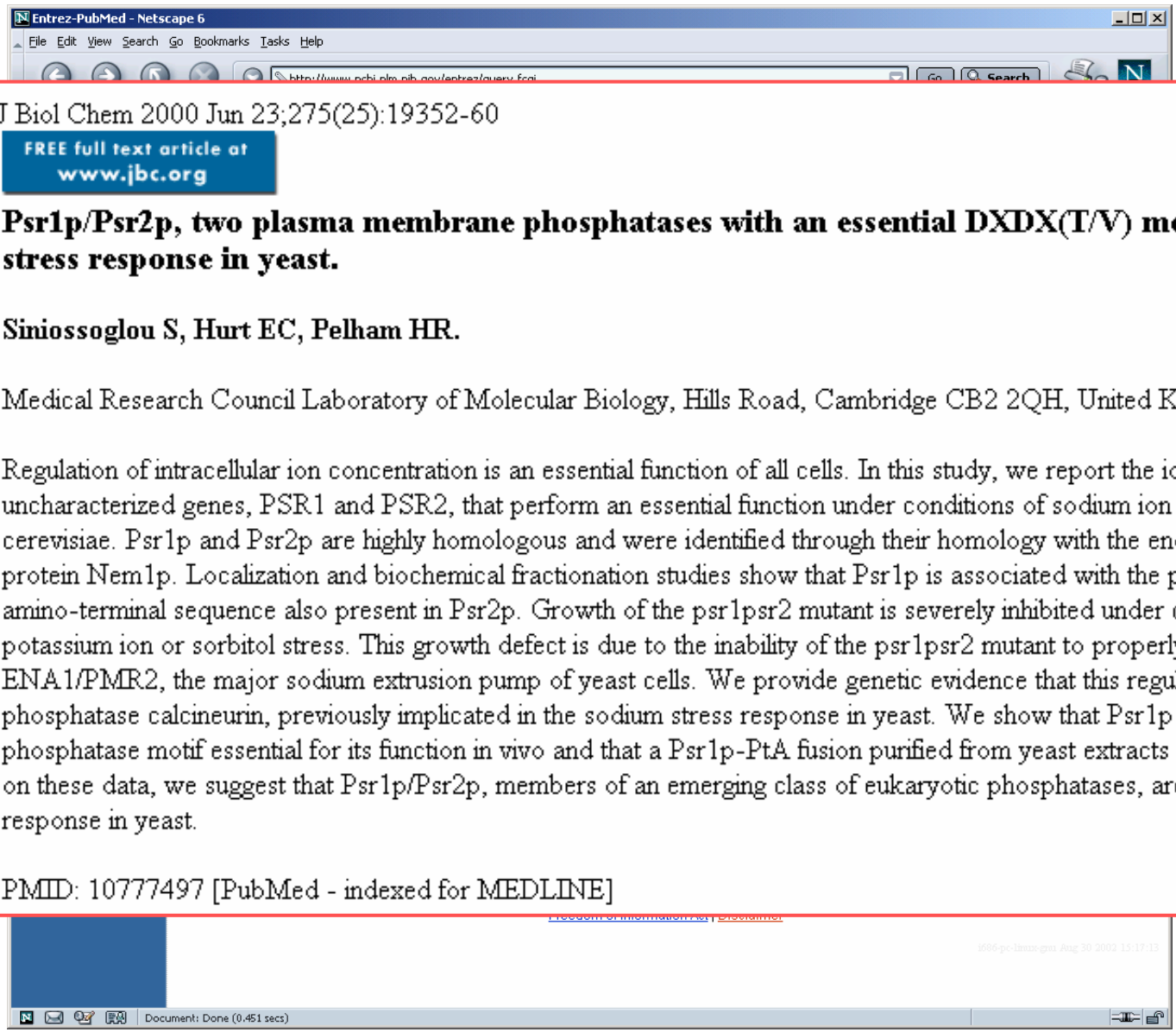


Using Entrez for Discovery - 5



Using Entrez for Discovery - 6

Using Entrez for Discovery - 7



New Entrez Databases

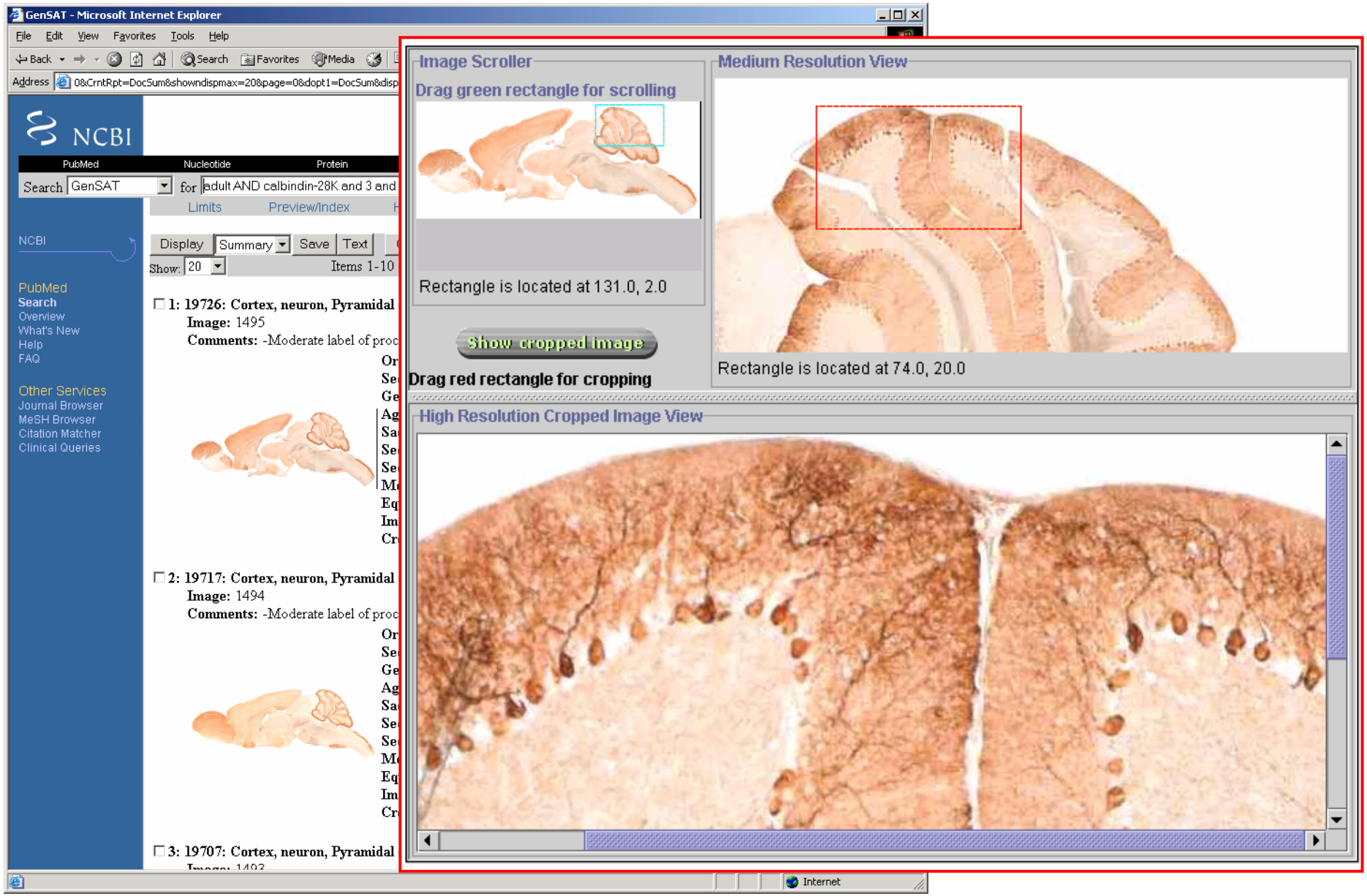
6 new databases in the last year

1. Books: online books
2. GEO: high-throughput gene expression and microarray datasets
3. 3D Domains: structural protein domains from Entrez Structure
4. UniSTS: markers and mapping data
5. CDD: conserved protein domains
6. SNP: single nucleotide polymorphisms

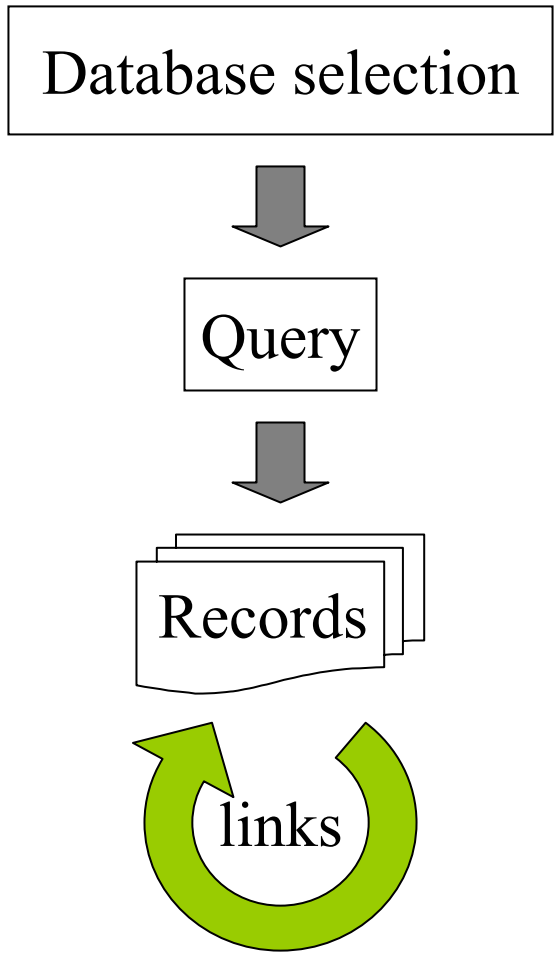
5 new databases on the way

1. UniGene: clusters of sequence similar transcripts
2. Gene: a derivation of LocusLink and Genomes
3. SKY/CGH: spectral karyotyping/comparative genomic hybridization
4. Site Search: search the NCBI web and ftp sites
5. Gensat: *in situ* gene expression in the nervous system of the mouse

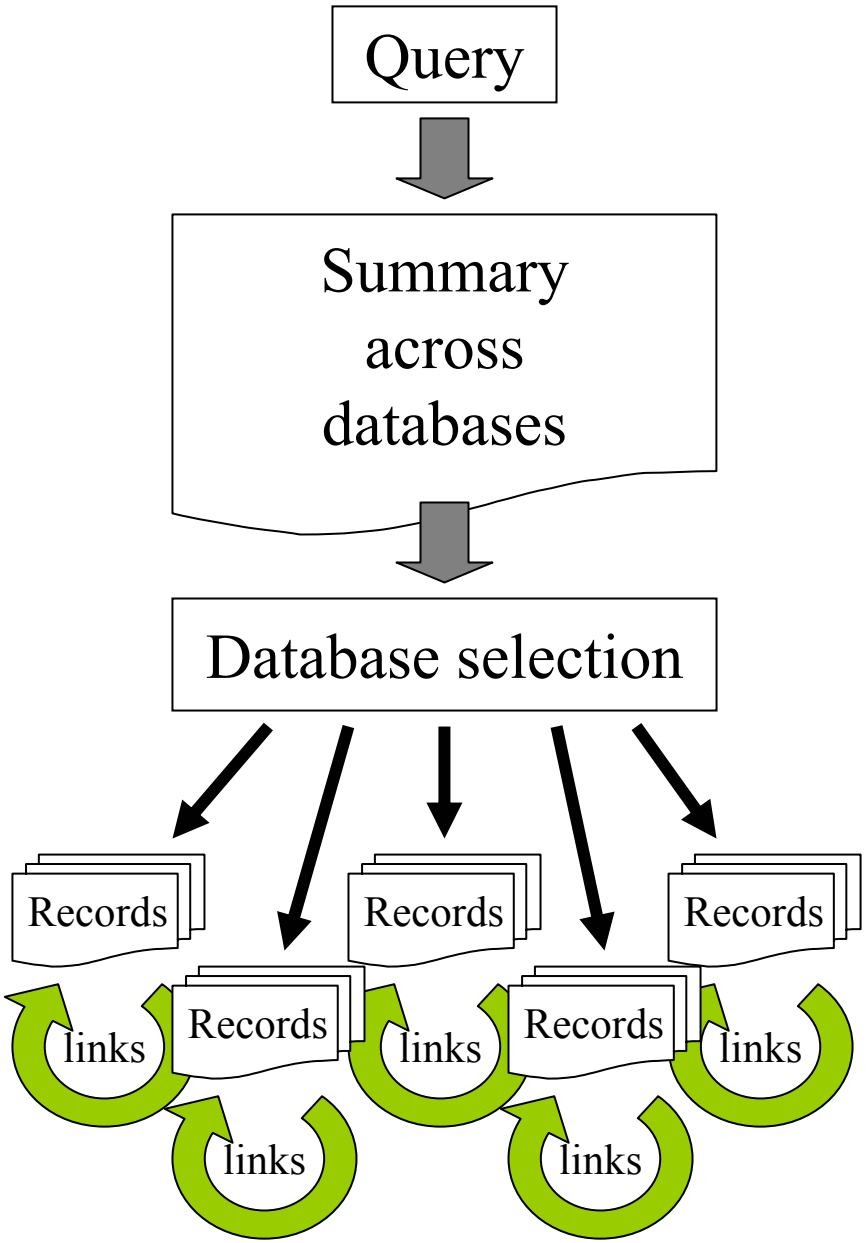
Entrez Gensat



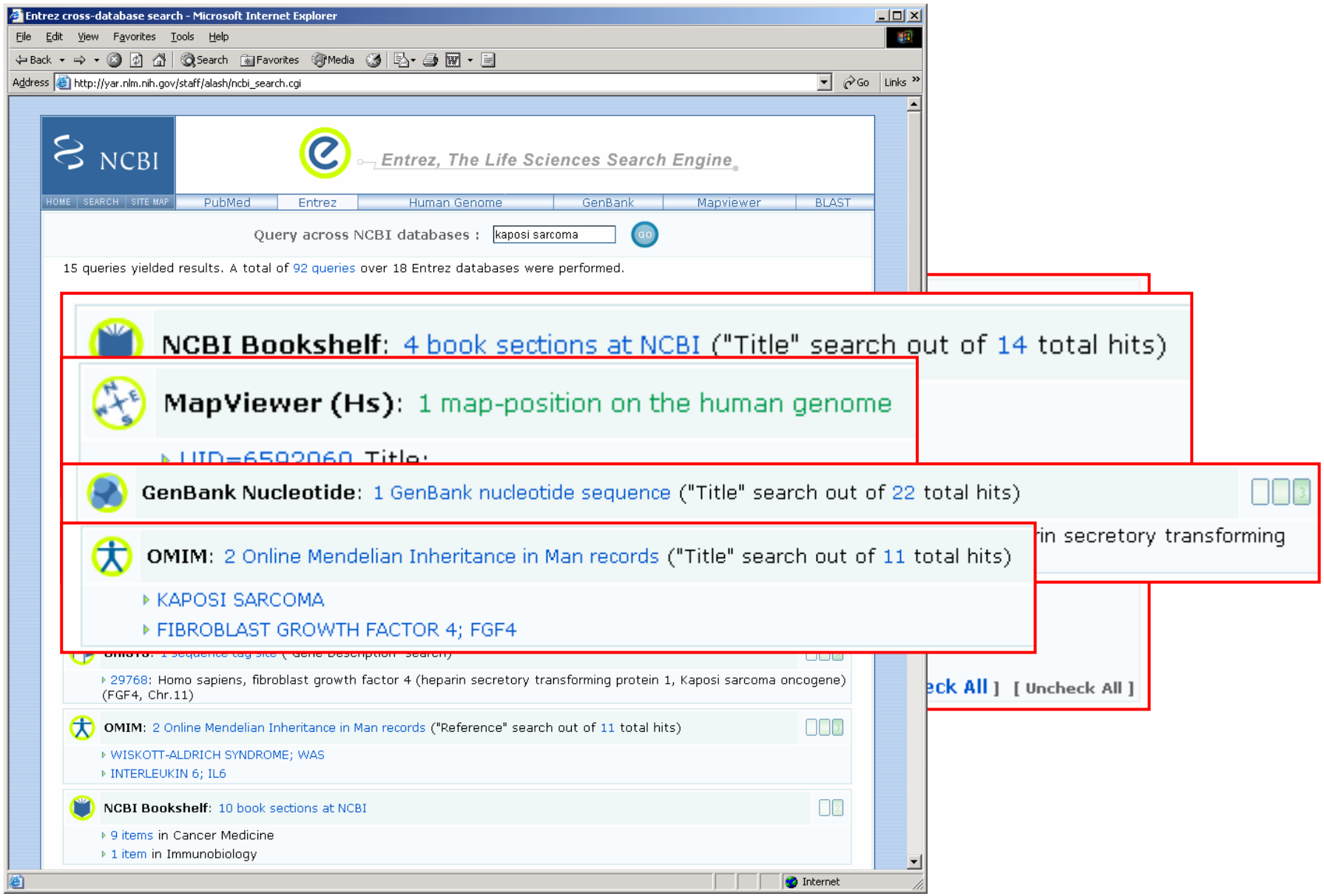
Current Query Scheme



Global Query Scheme



Entrez Global Query



NCBI

National Center for Biotechnology Information

National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health

PubMed | Entrez | BLAST | OMIM | Books | TaxBrowser | Structure

Search Nucleotide for [ ] Go

SITE MAP
Guide to NCBI resources

About NCBI
The science behind our resources. An introduction for researchers, educators and the public.

GenBank
Sequence submission and software

Molecular databases
Sequences, structures and taxonomy

Literature databases
PubMed, OMIM, Books and PubMed Central

Genomic biology
The human genome, whole genomes and related resources

Tools
for data mining

Research at NCBI

What does NCBI do?

Established in 1988 as a national resource for molecular biology information, NCBI creates public databases, conducts research in computational biology, develops software tools for analyzing genome data, and disseminates biomedical information - all for the better understanding of molecular processes affecting human health and disease.

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov

The new buzz on UniGene!

The fly and mosquito join the UniGene sequences collection, an experimental system for automatically partitioning GenBank sequences into a non-redundant set of gene-oriented clusters. New additions serve to further enhance UniGene as a public resource for gene discovery. More...

NCBI in the News

NCBI now offers quick links to online resources through LinkOut. This new feature of the Entrez database system "expands the

Hot Spots

- Cancer genome anatomy project
- Clusters of orthologous groups
- Coffee Break
- Electroni
- Human map
- Human/mouse homology maps
- LocusLink
- Malaria genetics & genomics
- Mouse genome resources
- ORF finder
- Reference sequence project